



McCartneys angry after Orde refuses to comment

([Irish News](#))

The family of murdered Belfast man Robert McCartney also attended the meeting, expecting to hear whether any new witnesses had come forward to assist the hunt for his killers.

Republicans were blamed for stabbing the 33-year-old to death outside a city centre bar in January 2005.

Catherine McCartney, a sister of the victim, hit out after the board was told that the issue had been dealt with at a private session.

"We were disappointed the chief constable wasn't able to answer a straightforward question," she said.

"It was a simple yes or no.

"The public has been left none the wiser about what progress has been made since Sinn Féin joined up to policing."

Ms McCartney rejected Sinn Féin's claim that it was assisting the inquiry.

"Sinn Féin said there were 12 of its members in the vicinity of the bar that night," she said.

"We have never agreed with that number but there are at least 10 current members of Sinn Féin who have refused to cooperate directly with the police."

Ms McCartney said she found it difficult to believe a statement by Sinn Féin's Alex Maskey, who sits on the board, that members of his party who failed to cooperate had resigned or had been suspended.

"I would doubt any members were expelled," she said.

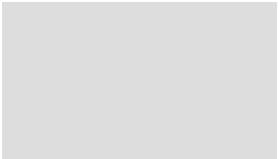
Mr Maskey said senior Sinn Féin representatives had repeatedly urged anyone with information about the murder to come forward to police.

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